

- 15 19. A process for preparing the protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ
ID NO: 2 by culturing the microorganism of claim 18.

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action dated January 29, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. In view of the above amendments made to the claims and for the reasons provided below, early allowance of pending claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 13-15 and newly added claims 17-19 is respectfully requested.

I. The Rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 8, 10 and 15) as being anticipated by 35 U.S.C. 102(b, and rejected claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over New England BioLabs Catalog, pages 106-108, 1995.

In this connection, the Examiner's kind attention is directed to the fact that claims 1, 2, 4, 8 10 and 15 have been amended by deleting "fragment of the protooncogene" and adding new claims 17-19 have been added, thereby excluding the ApaI disclosed in the prior art reference cited by the Examiner and other fragments of the protooncogene having similar sequences.

i) Critical Feature of the Present Invention

By way of review, the present invention defined in the pending claims, as amended above, is directed to a human cervical cancer 1 protooncogene having the base sequence corresponding to base Nos. 9 to 1088 or the full base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; a vector comprising said protogocogene, a microorganism transformed